by small scale units which are not required to obtain industrial licence under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. However, all drug and formulation manufacturing units whether in the organised or in the unorganised sector are required to obtain drug licence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

IMPROVEMENT OF PENICILLIN MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

*311. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for improving the technology of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. for the manufacture of Penicillin;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have received offers for this project and what is the time frame for implementation of improvement plan; and

(c) whether Government are inviting offers for selling equity in HAL for upgradation of technology of HAL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The technology improvement is a continuous process. As a result of the efforts over the years, the rated capacity of Penicillin of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) increased from 9 MMU in 1955-56 to 740 MMU in 1992-93. The production has increased from 1 MMU in 1955-56 to 713 MMU in 1992-93.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some private sector companies have indicated their interest in collaborating with Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. for production of penicillin. No formal proposal as such has been received by the company.

(c) No, Sir.

AFFAIRS OF IPCL

*312. SHRI MOHD. KHALEEUR RAHMAN:

SHRI CHIMANBAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IPCL's net sales was 18.3 per cent and gross profits 10.4 per cent lower as compared to the corresponding period of last year for the six months ending September 30;

(b) if so, the details and causes of poor performance of the IPCL;

(c) whether the IPCL is deficient in technology compared to similar local or international companies or over-staffed and falls short of in respect of modern sound management practices and State-of-art technology;

(d) the reasons for which the IPCL would not withstand increased international competition due to cut in import duties; and

(e) whether input costs have gone up during the last six months including the cost of naphtha which is 30 per cent higher than international price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a shortfall in the anticipated production, sales and profits during the six months period ending the 30th Sep-